

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, lines 8 through 11, with the following amended paragraph:

Following the procedures outlined in Example 1, the following oligonucleotides were synthesized:

Oligo #  <u>SEQ ID NO:</u>	Sequence (5'---> 3') and Modification <sup>a</sup>
1	d(CTATCTGAC <b>CG</b> TTCTCTGT)
2	d(CTATCTGAC* <b>G</b> TTCTCTGT)
3	d(CTATCTGAC <b>C</b> *TTCTCTGT)
4	d(CTATCTGAC* <b>G</b> TTCTCTGT)
5	d(CTATCTGAC <b>C</b> *TTCTCTGT)

<sup>a</sup> CpG-motif is shown in bold. C\* represents 5-hydroxycytosine (oligos 2 and 3) or N4-ethylcytosine (oligos 4 and 5).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 9 through page 30, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The CpG-PS-oligos shown in Figure 17 were synthesized using an automated synthesizer and phosphoramidite approach. Oligo 1 (16-mer) was synthesized using nucleoside-5'-β-cyanoethylphosphoramidites. Oligo 2, a 32-mer, was synthesized using nucleoside-3'-β-cyanoethylphosphoramidites and controlled pore glass support (CPG-solid support) with a 3'-linked nucleoside in which 16-mer sequence of Oligo 1 was repeated twice; therefore, Oligo 2 had two 16-mers (Oligo 1) linked by a normal 3'-5'-linkage. Oligo 3, a 32-mer, was synthesized with two 16-mers (Oligo 1) linked by a 5'-5'-linkage, so Oligo 3 had two 3'-ends and no 5'-end. Synthesis of Oligo 3 was carried out in two steps: the first 16-mer was synthesized using nucleoside-3'-β-cyanoethylphosphoramidites and solid

support with a 3'-linked nucleoside, and then synthesis of the second 16-mer segment was continued using nucleoside-5'- $\beta$ -cyanoethylphosphoramidites. Oligo **4**, a 32-mer, comprised two 16-mers (Oligo **1**) linked by a 3'-3'-linkage, so Oligo **4** had two 5'-ends and no 3'-end. Synthesis of Oligo **4** was carried out in two steps: the first 16-mer was synthesized using nucleoside-5'- $\beta$ -cyanoethylphosphoramidites and solid support with a 5'-linked nucleoside, and the synthesis of the second 16-mer segment was continued using nucleoside-3'- $\beta$ -cyanoethylphosphoramidites. Synthesis of Oligos **5-8** was carried out by using the same nucleoside- $\beta$ -cyanoethylphosphoramidites as for Oligos **1-4**, respectively. At the end of the synthesis, Oligos **1-8** were deprotected with concentrated ammonia solution, purified by reversed phase HPLC, detritylated, desalted and dialyzed. The purity of each PS-oligo was checked by CGE and the molecular weight was confirmed by MALDI-TOF mass spectral analysis (Table 1). The sequence integrity and directionality of 5'-CpG motif in Oligos **1-8** were confirmed by recording melting temperatures ( $T_m$ s) of the duplexes with their respective DNA complementary strands (5'-AAGGTCGAGCGTTCTC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 6) for Oligos **1-4**, and 5'-ATGGCGCACGCTGGGAGA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 7) for Oligos **5-8**). The  $T_m$ s of these duplexes were  $53.9 \pm 0.9$  °C (Oligos **1-4**), 61.8 °C (Oligo **5**), and  $58.8 \pm 0.6$  °C (Oligos **6-8**) (note that Oligo **5** was a 18-mer and Oligos **6-8** were 32-mers but not 36-mers).